

**PRESS STATEMENT FROM THE INSITUTE FOR PEACE AND
CONFLICT RESOLUTION ON THE RESCHEDULED NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, THURSDAY 7TH APRIL, 2011**

The Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution wishes to commend Nigerians for their understanding following the rescheduling of the National Assembly elections.

The large turnout of voters and the peaceful manner in which Nigerians have continued to conduct themselves since last Saturday's postponement is an eloquent testimony to the resilience of a people destined to live together in peace and unity.

We commend the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, for its courage in taking the decision it took. This act of patriotism is worthy of emulation. We believe that the development has brought about its lessons and challenges to INEC and the electorate, and that the rest of us owe it a duty to give INEC a chance at this critical moment.

We commend the political parties for the peaceful and matured manner with which they received the news of the rescheduling of the National Assembly elections. This goes to show the maturity of our political class and is a pointer to the fact that the roots of democracy are deepening in Nigeria. We wish to remind all Nigerians of Mr. President's call to "let us sustain that patriotic zeal that you so visibly displayed last Saturday" to enable us conduct peaceful and credible elections in Nigeria.

We implore Nigerians to let this spirit of understanding continue to take the greater part of us as a people.

Finally, as we strive to make our votes count, let us go about it peacefully for, without peace, there will be no progress. Let peace be our watch word while voting.

We wish everybody happy and peaceful elections.

Dr. Joseph Golwa, *fspsp*

Director-General